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Abstract

THE INCORPORATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TO THE SPANISH POWER NETWORK

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Spain is subjected to a fast rate of increase in electrical energy consumption, which has doubled in the last seven years. The hydroelectrical resources, today representing 75% of the total production, have progressively been depleted. Domestic fossil fuels are costly and their production is insufficient to cover the needs of electrical energy production through thermal stations. Imported fuel is needed, generally crude oil, to fill in the gap.

With this situation as a basis, the incorporation of nuclear stations in the Spanish electrical system has been studied, taking into account, especially, the competition with thermal stations which burn imported fossil fuels. In this study the structure of the Spanish electrical network is considered, especially with reference to the size of the nuclear stations and their utilization factor.

The program of installation of nuclear power plants in Spain is indicated based on the applications submitted by the utilities and the general lines established by the Government. The necessary investment and the possible participation of Spanish industry are also analyzed.

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